

LAMBDA

Tuesday, March 20, 2012

theLambda.ca

Volume 50, Issue 12

SGA spends more than \$168,500 on pub renos

BY ED VEILLEUX

By the time all is said and done, SGA members will have paid roughly \$168,500 of their money to renovate the Pub Down Under, at least.

The most recent figures released, at a Feb. 29 board meeting, show the SGA spent roughly \$135,000 on Corriveau Contracting for the majority of the work.

“There wasn’t an open bidding process,” SGA President Charlie Andrews said. “I told the contractor the budget was \$80,000 to \$100,000, and we had to work within there, and that was on the contract.”

The contractor charged roughly \$135,000, according to a report presented to the SGA board.

When asked about the total spent on contracting, Andrews said, “It wasn’t a surprise.” He then elaborated that the TVs and furniture purchased were expensive, although they don’t impact on the cost of the contractors’ services.

Andrews decided to go with the contractor because of their ties to Laurentian University, he said.

“The technician for the university is also the same as the contractor,” Andrews said. “So, the reason that is important is that (when) the power goes out, at least they can get access to the resources they need to resolve the issue.”

The power went out on Dec. 27 while the contractors were working on pub and it was quickly restored,

according to Andrews.

Andrews said because of his contractor choice, the renovations were also completed over reading week, while the university was closed down. With an outside contractor, that might not have happened, the president said.

The renovations were paid for by the off-campus housing fund (which was collected from SGA members to pay for the now-defunct Off-campus housing office) which totaled \$179,677 and was collected over a few years. It was transferred to the SGA from the administration this year, because the office the funds were supposed to be paying for was no longer operational.

The numbers for the pub renos, up to January 4, were presented to the board at the Feb. 29 board meeting.

When the decision was made to spend the off-campus housing fund on the pub (the first cheque to Corriveau was paid in September), it was during a time when the SGA executive had the power of the board, under SGA constitution bylaw 5.02. Having the power of the board, the executive had the power to spend the off-campus housing fund without board consultation.

At the time, the executive was made up of SGA President Charlie Andrews and VP Services Iain Park, as former VP Issues Tim Campbell had resigned from office. Having only two executive members to vote on actions such



Photo by Ryan Neal

SGA President Charlie Andrews participated in the March 15 SGA candidates debates, held in Alumni Hall. He is seeking re-election.

as this one, Andrews held the overruling vote in any tie-situation.

The first cheque for the pub work was issued Sept. 27, the day before the first SGA board meeting of the year.

The renovations were brought up at the March 15 SGA elections debates, during the presidential audience question period, as Andrews was on stage, when an audience member asked how the candidates could justify spending \$150,000 (or more) on pub renovations.

SGA presidential-candidate Steve Sutherland replied:

“With \$180,000, I could’ve given 1,800 students \$100 dollars each. That would’ve given students, who are pretty much broke by the end of the year, \$100 to buy groceries. I can’t justify spending that much (on the pub renovations). I love the Food Network and I’ve seen them do restaurant makeovers and spend \$30,000 on spaces that are much larger than the pub downstairs.”

Andy Rollins, also vying for the

SGA president job, followed suit:

“I can’t justify spending that kind of money on pub renovations, no matter what. At the very least there should have been a fair bidding process. There are so many things that our school could have done with \$180,000. We could’ve put a down payment on a house and threw a new pub in there.”

SEE ‘ANDREWS,’ PAGE 4

Fear and Loathing on the (SGA) campaign trail

After 25-plus hours spent this week in boardrooms, doing interviews and attending candidate meet-and-greets, it's safe to say I'm well-versed in this year's SGA candidates.

I've read them like books: highlighted my favourite quotes, felt their pain and silently cheered their accomplishments... Cringed, sighed, laughed and shook my head until it almost fell off.

They grow up so fast.

The things I know that can't be reported could fill this issue. Off-the-record meetings and comments are such an interesting part of the campaign trail.

So, here is all of that information (just kidding).

This year's election is shaping up to be a rollercoaster of a ride: winners are hard to predict (in most races), and every position has at least one candidate, or more, who seems to be a good choice. The candidates (generally) seem to want what is best for the SGA, and that's a comforting thought, isn't it?

It's safe to say we've had enough controversy and toxicity in the last two years. Can we please have some unity? And yes, I'll supersize that part of my order.

The CRO (grand overseer of the



ED VAILLEUX

election, who makes sure everything is in order) Dan Brunet has been on top of issuing warnings to candidates, but has been very fair. His judgment seems sound, and he is one of the only board members who seems to be well-respected by every member of the board. He is all the SGA can wish for in a CRO, and he holds a very unfavourable position that carries a lot of stress and tough ethical decisions everyday. So, here is some recognition, Mr. Brunet. That being said, whether or not the election has any bumps and hiccups will come down to the candidates. The board meeting on March 9 was held to ratify the candidates running. Only one was voted out of running, for reasons that were discussed in-camera by the board. SGA President Charlie Andrews apparently put in a lot of effort to get

new faces out for that board meeting (which is absolutely legal for him to do).

One board member made a point of asking all board members to introduce themselves, as she was confused as to who several people were (which absolutely never happens at SGA board meetings, as the same members show up to all meetings, generally).

It's fair comment to suggest that Charlie's newly-appointed board members voted in favour of ratifying him to run, and they were the difference in allowing him to, as without them he would have fallen to a board that he has tumbled out of favour with.

It's a completely legal move on his part, and a smart political one. But, it does deserve a mention, doesn't it? What also deserves a mention is how hard it was to come by the information appearing in the pub renovations article, concerning our president.

I had a conversation with him in early March about how I was working on that story, and how I would need comment on it for this issue. He agreed. I was walking with two other Lambda reporters at the time, who heard the conversation.

The interview finally happened, as we walked back from the March 15 candidates' debate. An audience member had asked Andrews about the pub, during the question period for candidates. It seemed a fitting time to interview him about the pub, while I had his ear after the debates and he had just answered a question on it to the public.

Since the interview, Andrews has asked me twice to not run his comments until he presents final pub renovation finances to the board. I have chosen to run the comments because they are of public interest, and the interview was obtained publically and it was agreed upon (it wasn't until the day after that he asked me to not run the comments). Take this as the Lambda taking a stand against outside influence. Our readers deserve to read the story, and to hear what our president has to say about what has been done with \$168,500 of our money.

In terms of public interest, this story is the most important one we have ran all year. People deserve to know, don't they?

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Lambda circulates 3000 issues throughout the City of Greater Sudbury and Laurentian University Campus.

Lambda Publications is the bi-weekly student newspaper of, by and for the students of Laurentian University. Lambda is funded through a direct student levy by members of the Students' General Association/Association Generale des Etudiants, yet remains autonomous from all university organizations, both student and administrative.

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A guide to the SGA elections

Presidential candidates

BY ED VEILLEUX

The choice for president comes down to three candidates: incumbent Charlie Andrews, Andy Rollins and Steve Sutherland.

If elected, Andrews will “simply focus on academic appeals and advocating student issues, while continuing to be dedicated to the students.”

Andrews is running to make LU a better place, he says.

“I’m running again because I care about the students and want to work with them to make Laurentian University a better place for the students.”

In his spare time, Andrews plays the french horn professionally and volunteers in the community.

Andy Rollins is hoping to bring accountability and unity to the SGA office.

“Students need an executive that handles money responsibly. (Also), unity between the SGA executive is essential to making sure students are getting the most out of their student association.”

For Rollins, running is a way to help LU students reach their potential.

“I realize that the Laurentian population is capable of remarkable things. I will work hard advocating for, uniting and supporting the students.”

In his spare time, Rollins enjoys watching and playing hockey (he is currently playing in the residence league).

If elected, Steve Sutherland is hoping to change the mentality of the SGA to “do right by the students by getting rid of the SGA’s top-down approach, and solving its outreach problem.”

Sutherland is running to give the students back their organization, he says.

“I feel like students have felt disenfranchised over issues that have happened in the SGA over the years. I can bring the students back together and back to the SGA.”

In his spare time, Sutherland is an avid soccer fan and enjoys signing and playing guitar.

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VP Issues candidates

BY ED VEILLEUX

The choice for VP Issues comes down to five candidates: Olivia Coady, Kimberly Hempell, Joey Kiraga, Nathan Knott and Jarrod Shook.

Olivia Coady says the VP issues position: “stands for what students are interested in, what they care for and what they want to see changed throughout the year.

“I stand for that because I’m a passionate student. I believe, first and foremost that I have every qualification when it comes to promoting charities, donations, organizations, both international and local.”

For Kimberly Hempell, the VP issues role is about doing her best to represent SGA members.

“My platform is representing the students by being a role model, a voice or just someone to confide in. It is important to me that the students be comfortable and safe at this school all the while making the most out of their University years.”

Joey Kiraga, fresh off serving his first year on the SGA board, says he wants a

higher position in the SGA, to make a difference.

“I found as commissioner I was unable to put a full effort into helping the SGA as the responsibilities of a commissioner are limited. I have a great interest in the inner workings of (SGA).”

Nathan Knott put his name on the ballot in an effort to make the SGA transparent and to serve the interest of all students.

“The association is not transparent enough and many students are kept in the dark about what truly goes on behind closed doors. I would be an advocate for full transparency, and an association that caters to the interests of all students.”

For Jarrod Shook, the role of VP issues is a way to serve the students and to help them be heard.

“I have an eye for what students want and need, and am driven by passion and duty. I know when to stand up; I know when to speak up; and I know when to shut up and listen.”

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VP Services candidates

BY ED VEILLEUX

Five people are running for the position of SGA senator, but only three can be chosen. McKenna Elsasser, Chris MacCullough, Chloë Mirfield, Allen Sylvestre and Sarah Williams are running for the position.

McKenna Elsasser plans to bring accountability and transparency to the SGA.

“If elected I will ensure that transparency and accountability permanently exists within the SGA, while effectively representing students on Senate.”

Chris MacCullough wants to make it easier for students to communicate to the SGA and to senate.

“I want to be able to foster in an age of the SGA where students are able to voice their concerns directly to members of the SGA board and the Senators serving on the University Senate.”

Chloë Mirfield plans to fight for all

students if she is elected.

“My plan is simple. I want to fight for better international and general student support, through bursaries, program rehabilitation and tuition freezes.”

Allen Sylvestre hopes to use his experience in various clubs, and his time on the SGA board, towards improving student life on senate. He hopes to be able to voice student concerns to senate.

Sarah Williams says her experience around campus will serve the students well if she is elected.

“I do a lot around campus and these activities introduce me to students from various backgrounds. The Senate discusses the policies that the University functions under and I am going to take what I learn from you and apply it there.”

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VP Services candidates

BY ED VEILLEUX

There are five candidates running for the role of VP Services this year: Kirsten Davidson, Kelsey Laplante, Carolyn Leblanc, Iain Park and Tom Sutton.

Kirsten Davidson would like to use the position to bring a fresh face to the SGA and new events.

“If elected, I would bring a fresh new face to the SGA and introduce a lot of new events for a wide variety of LU students. I am confident in my abilities as a leader and someone who listens to others.”

For Kelsey Laplante, it’s important for all students to have events catered to them, and to increase awareness of clubs.

“I have every intention of making sure that through me, everyone in all walks of life are represented through planned activities which will appeal to all personalities and interests. I want this year to be as diverse as possible.”

Carolyn Leblanc hopes to bring

experience and dedication to the position of VP services.

“I have significant experience as a paralegal and business owner, which should easily translate to capably handling the day-to-day aspects of the VP Services position.”

Incumbent VP services Iain Park says he has done well with his role this year and is hoping to one-up himself next year.

“We’ve seen an amount of student engagement never seen before. When I was elected last year I promised more concerts, and more events. I’m asking you to vote on merit, and progress.”

For Tom Sutton, uniting and making sure students are happy with the level of services at the university is important.

“I can bring people together and I want to help provide services that will give you an easier time on campus. Let’s beat back the costs of those books and student card replacements.”

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Note: Students can vote on March 21 and 22, from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. in most locations. Read Lambda’s election brochure for a word from the candidates. Check thelambdac.ca for up-to-date election information, as it comes in.

Pride set for referendum

BY MATT RABEY

The mandatory number of signatures was collected to signify 10 percent of the Laurentian University student population being in favour of a new \$1 per student incidental fee to fund the Laurentian University Pride Office.

James Spires, Vice President of Pride at Laurentian University explains the importance of this new referendum.

“(This referendum) is important because our office is open to everyone, gay and straight. We host events for the gay community and the straight community and are open to any members as long as they are respectful and they believe in what the club tries to promote: diversity and tolerance.”

The President of Pride LU, Jesse Depatie, added:

“Our offices and the resources that we offer are all inclusive to anybody and they are there for anybody who needs a safe space. It is

another opportunity for people to come and be themselves and not get judged.”

Pride LU hopes to get funding similar to the women's centre.

“They (the women's centre) put forward a referendum two or three years ago and they got the funding,” Depatie said. “That's good that they are getting the funding, but we have a room, we have resources, and we have everything that they have. I feel that we should get just as much funding, if not more than them. Especially for the fact that the women's centre is for women only and even males have to pay the dollar for the women's centre.”

The president of Pride LU added: “Pride is for everybody, for the LGBT community and it is for the supporters as well. I understand why the women's centre does not include guys. It is like the Pride office, it is a safe space. Just like how we don't want negativity and people who judge others in our space, they don't want a

certain population in their space.”

To answer the question of where the additional funding for Pride LU would be spent Spires said, “The money would be used for resources for events that promote tolerance.”

Depatie added: “The money that we are looking for would go to updating the office, updating the chairs, updating the books, the movies, the pamphlets, all the resources are all really outdated and falling apart. If we (had) more new stuff to offer a lot more people would stop by and use what's being offered to them.”

The referendum is set to appear on the ballot for the student elections on March 21 and 22.

Vice-President of Issues Michael Martino expressed his thoughts on the referendum:

“I'm looking for a place to live where the diversity of humanity is recognized, encouraged and embraced. Our society

has a lot of room for development and this student organization is a very inclusive and very welcoming organization. This is an opportunity for students to further empower this student organization to effect social development within our community and to further contribute to the student movement at Laurentian University.”

The VP continued, saying that he believes in this referendum.

“I am very much in favor of this referendum and am very much in support of pride. I really hope that there are enough students who agree with me and who will contribute by coming out and voting in the next election as well as voting in favor of this referendum so that we can build a stronger and more inclusive community.”

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Andrews: ‘It’s an investment for the SGA’

FROM PAGE 1

Rollins suggested the SGA could've given out some \$500 bursaries to alleviate student debt, with the money. “We should've put the money back into students' hands or at least down something more for the entire SGA.”

Andrews responded third on the question, saying:

“Keep in mind, the pub gives students jobs and also it is an investment for the SGA because it's the only resource that generates a revenue. The pub definitely needed renovations.”

The current president said the pub needed to renovate using “durable and industrial materials” because of their durability.

“We want something that will last long-term, like another 50 years or so,” he added.

In the future, Andrews said, “There should be more of a supervision, or board protocol, involved with large expenditures within the SGA.”

During an interview about the renovations, Andrews said, “(The pub renovations) could've waited, I suppose. (But), we need to live up to the times. The (former) lighting was really hot, it would generate heat and (use) a lot of electricity. Now that we have LED lighting, which is more sustainable, it doesn't produce as much heat.”

In terms of where the money came from, Andrews noted:

“I think students need to know where the budget came from. It

doesn't effect our year-to-year budget because this money was found.”

Presidential candidate Steve Sutherland concluded:

“Clearly these decisions can't be made unilaterally.”

Andrews said there will be detailed financial records released about the pub renovations at the March 28 SGA board meeting, at 5 p.m. on the eleventh floor of the parker building.

SGA Senator Mark Mancini said students were wronged in regards to the pub renovations project.

“This was a blatant misuse of student funds--no more, no less,” he said. “As a student association, we need to ensure that student money is well spent and well accounted for.”

Mancini said he is “ashamed” of the process behind the project.

“In any professional organization, there is a tendering process that occurs for capital projects. This allows the organization to get the lowest possible price; this is how we show respect for the students and their money. As it stands, it seems as if there was no planning, there was only one bidder. This is a boondoggle if I've ever seen one, one that I'm quite ashamed of. Students did not get value for their money in the pub, and they should be concerned over the flagrant disregard for their money that Mr. Andrews seemed to have. We can do better for SGA students.”

Current VP of Issues Michael

Martino said he doesn't feel right about the amount spent on the renovations or the process (although he wasn't yet in power when the decisions were made).

“I apologize to my membership,” he said. “I work for you, but this year some things just didn't work. Think of what we might have done with \$150 000 (or more) to toss around. That's a lot of bursaries, buses to Occupy Toronto, ping pong balls for the games room, free pizza and better food, funding for clubs, causes, and everything else we might have come up with.”

In terms of how the situation was handled, Martino added:

“Our actions to remedy the situation were inadequate in hindsight... We were actually being too nice about something that we now realize required more aggressive action than we were willing and thought was necessary to take at the time.”

Senator Mancini said he was unnerved by the secrecy behind the project:

“As far as I'm concerned, Mr. Andrews ran this project on his own. In this case, Mr. Andrews was quite secretive about the project in the pub, and he did not disclose information to the Board or to me on any one occasion. We, as an organization, were stripped of our ability to protect students and their money, despite our numerous requests to Mr. Andrews as to what was going on in the pub.”

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Kony 2012: a two-sided story

BY RON GUILLET

Kony 2012 has registered over 80 million views on YouTube.

For those unfamiliar with the viral campaign, it is spearheaded by Invisible Children (IC), a not-for-profit organization, which is attempting to make Joseph Kony, head of the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA), "famous," as the campaign states.

To achieve this goal, IC has created a film, KONY 2012, to raise awareness on Kony's actions, which, based on reports, include kidnapping children and forcing them to fight as soldiers to build the LRA.

While IC has received a considerable amount of praise for its initiative, the organization has also been met with criticism for having potential ulterior motives.

Nathan Knott, a Laurentian University student, believes some of the campaign's supporters aren't privy to the criticisms against IC.

"I don't think people should support it blindly," Knott said of IC's campaign. "For some students to openly flock without doing their background research and to just take one media source as the truth and ignore the rest, even though we have a public discourse going on, worries me. I think students

must be open to criticism and not interpret that criticism as an attack on them or their views. It's just a way to change their point of view and hoping they see both sides and then make a decision once they've heard them."

Knott thinks IC's tactics to raise awareness on Kony have been questionable.

"The way they're marketing this campaign worries me, such as asking the supporters to purchase a bracelet," Knott said. "Previously they were charging for the posters as well, but now they're giving the PDF versions for free. But you buy these Kony kits, and then you look at their transparency records and financial statements, it isn't the most accountable charity on earth."

Precious Gambrah, a Laurentian student, believes Kony 2012 is a worthy cause.

"I believe this movement is significant in changing the future," Gambrah said. "We as students have to understand that change is possible. If great activists in the past such as Martin Luther King, Gandhi and Terry Fox were able to bring awareness to the world in regards to their own situations, what more can the student body do in regards to this Kony movement,

as well as the other situations happening in other Third World countries?"

IC has received a two-star rating (out of four) in accountability and transparency from Charity Navigator, an independent charity evaluator. According to Visible Children, an anti-IC blog, the company spent only 33 per cent of its \$8 million-plus in spending on "direct services."

Moreover, according to a 2011 Foreign Affairs story, IC, among other organizations, "have manipulated facts for strategic purposes, exaggerating the scale of LRA abductions and murders and emphasizing the LRA's use of innocent children as soldiers, and portraying Kony -- a brutal man, to be sure -- as uniquely awful, a Kurtz-like embodiment of evil. They rarely refer to the Ugandan government atrocities or those of Sudan's People's Liberation Army, such as attacks against civilians or looting of civilian homes and businesses, or the complicated regional politics fueling the conflict."

IC CEO Ben Keesey put up a YouTube video in response to some of the questions raised of the organization's finances. Keesey refutes that "any claims that we (IC)

don't have financial transparency or that we're not audited every year by independent firms or that we don't have financial integrity, just aren't true." IC's blog has provided additional information to clarify any financial questions. The blog claims that the organization spent "80.46 per cent on our programs that further our three-fold mission; 16.24 per cent on administration and management costs; and 3.22 per cent on direct fundraising in Fiscal Year 2011" and that the Charity Navigator rating is low because "IC does not have five independent voting members on our board of directors--we currently have four."

Regarding the support for Kony 2012 on the Laurentian campus, Knott said he has seen the posters plastered over fire alarms and other strange locations. The posters have since been stripped down. Knott said that the talk regarding Kony has diminished on campus lately and thinks it will eventually dissipate.

Gambrah hopes IC's message remains strong, but cited other positives that may materialize from the campaign.

"I just hope that this issue isn't a fad," Gambrah said. "Even if that is the case, the other positive

aspect to this situation is that various issues similar to the Kony movement are prevalent in various Third World countries, so the fact that everyone is aware of what is going on around them makes me happy. Also, I pray that both the student body and I can do whatever possible to bring this situation to an end."

With news of co-founder Jason Russell getting detained for public masturbation and vandalizing vehicles, IC has dominated the headlines for another reason during the past week.

The organization released the following statement regarding Russell's detainment: "Jason Russell was unfortunately hospitalised suffering from exhaustion, dehydration and malnutrition," Keesey said. "He is now receiving medical care and is focused on getting better. The past two weeks have taken a severe emotional toll on all of us and that toll manifested itself in an unfortunate incident yesterday. Jason's passion and his work have done so much to help so many and we are devastated to see him dealing with this personal health issue."

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LOCS hosts pre-St. Patrick's Day event

BY MATT RABEY

Thursday, March 8, saw the Laurentian Off-Campus Students, or LOCS, organization throw its pre-St. Patty's Day event at Peddler's Pub downtown Sudbury. The event started at 8 p.m. with local Sudbury band Arrested Acoustic providing the entertainment. The cost was two dollars at the door, which granted the student's name being entered into a draw to win prizes. For a second chance to win, students could bring a non-perishable food item. There were numerous prizes available to be won throughout the night, including, hats, mugs and a 32-inch LCD flat screen TV.

Modern Language student Katrina Romanowich said, "I'm really enjoying this evening. There's a whole bunch of people. This place is so crowded that you can hardly walk through here without running into

people."

Although the event was run by LOCS, the event was open to all students, with many coming from residence.

The event was advertised around the Laurentian University campus with green and white flyers. Third-year Anthropology student Sarah Williams said this about the organization of the event:

"I think that it was really well put together, I heard about it through word of mouth. I knew that there was information up around the campus and believe on the web. They had printed tickets, which always legitimizes the event for me."

Students from all backgrounds showed up with Hongdoo Choi, a fourth-year exchange student from South Korea majoring in commerce, saying this about the LOCS event:

"It was really good, I can get to know many people and there was more of a school presence than I expected."

Thursday night is always wing night at Peddler's, and the event capitalized on that. Chemical Engineering major Charana Gunaratne said the event was enjoyable.

"Great music, great food, nice beer, beautiful women, best place to relax on Thursday night."

Second-year History major Danny Shames, one of the members of Arrested Acoustic, played a wide range of music with songs ranging from Oasis's Wonderwall to Crossroads by Cream. Shames said this in regards to playing at the LOCS event.

"It was pretty good tonight. I love playing, its tons of fun. I think the best part of playing in front of the Laurentian crowd is that it is always fun playing in front of

people that you see at school."

Kirsten Davidson, off campus rep and LOCS president, regarded the evening as a success.

"I was extremely happy," Davidson said. "I sold a bunch of tickets not knowing what kind of numbers to expect. A lot of people came to the door. I feel like off campus engagement is really important, we wanted to throw something before St. Patty's its always something that's really celebrated to kick it off. It's a gathering for students to chat with friends and have a good time."

Davidson continued with a preview of an upcoming LOCS event.

"We are hoping by the end of March to have a big capture the flag event and there will be news on that coming up soon."

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LU Math prof Luis Radford wins international award

BY KALLIE BERENS

Dr. Luis Radford was in Frankfurt at the beginning of February with three hours to wait for his flight to Toronto when he decided to check his email.

He was on his way back from Geneva, where he was attending a mathematics conference. After answering his correspondence he opened up an email from the International Commission on Mathematical Instruction which contained news about the recipient of the 2011 Hans Freudenthal Award, which recognizes major programs of research in the field of mathematics.

What he saw in that email was his own name, asking if he would accept this award.

"I couldn't believe it. I had to read the email several times," Radford said. "Our community is quite big - there are many groups in every country devoted to improving the teaching methods used in mathematical studies. It was a big surprise that they picked me."

The International Commission on Mathematical Instruction was originally formed in 1908 and its purpose is to promote international co operation in mathematics. According to Radford, the ICMI chose him as the recipient for this year's award because they recognize the work he has done in creating "a strong theoretical and practical research program

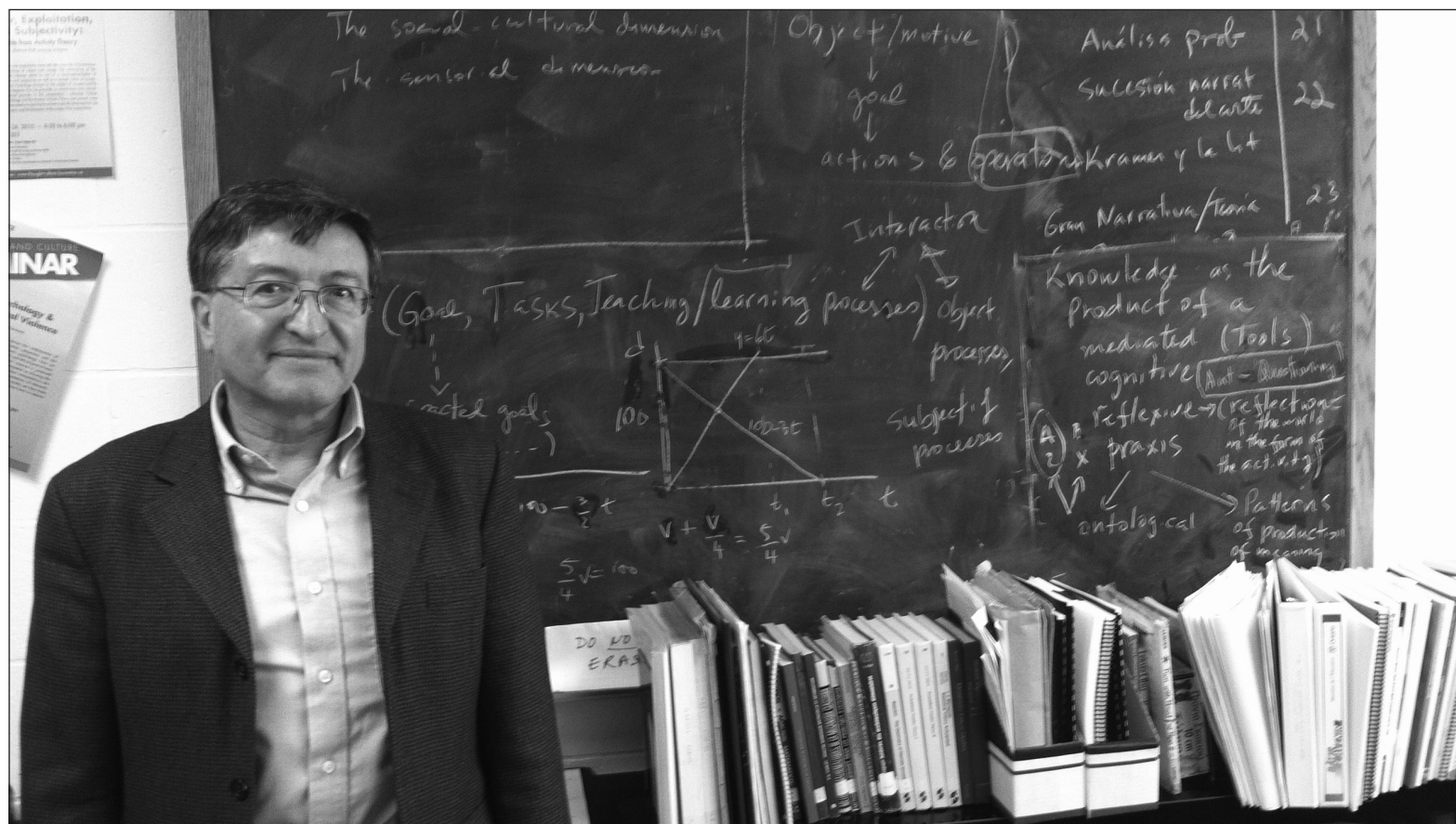


Photo by Ryan Neal

Laurentian Math professor Dr. Luis Radford poses in front of his chalkboard and bookshelf.

that has clear implications for the instruction of mathematics teaching."

Radford, who has been a professor at Laurentian since 1992, will receive the award in a ceremony that will take place this July in South Korea.

The award recipient is chosen by the ICMI's Awards Committee, which is made up of six members

of the commission.

"Over two decades I have been able to build a very strong research program," said Radford, "the committee said they recognized that I have been actively involved in the Ministry of Education in Ontario and that my work has helped their mathematics curriculum."

His work has been directly

referenced in the latest Ontario mathematics curriculum, and because of this, Radford said that he has been asked to give workshops for teachers and principals in schools.

"It's very tangible the way my research has affected the curriculum of mathematics," he said.

According to Radford, he is

a member of two chapters of the ICMI - the International Group for the Psychology of Mathematics Education, and International Group Relationship between Biology and the History of Mathematics.

Since the award was established in 2003, Radford has been the first Canadian honoured.

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Lane shares expertise at LU

BY RYEN VELDHUIS

This year, Thorneloe University has had a new face in the halls: Dr. Bill Lane.

"I basically answered an ad for the position of sabbatical replacement. Ian MacLennan normally teaches half the courses in the department and he was going on sabbatical," Lane says, about how he found himself at Laurentian this year.

Lane has been active in Canadian Theatre since the 70s, which he spent working exclusively in theatres as a director, playwright and dramaturg.

In 1982, Lane worked at CBC radio and developed, produced and sometimes directed over 500 radio plays. That same year he was both included in the 1982 publication of the Oxford Companion to Canadian Theatre and won the first Pauline McGibbon Award: an award for Ontario directors.

In 2004, Lane received his MA in the department of Social and Political Thought at York University after having a BA for most of his professional career. He then proceeded to get his Ph.D. in the Department of Theatre Studies at York.

"I spent a lot of my life in the Toronto area and working in major cities and about three years ago, for personal reasons, I made

a drive to Alaska from Toronto," Lane says. "I discovered, which I probably already knew, but I discovered in a different way that there is a whole world north of Toronto. And I guess it was shortly after that that I saw this position advertised and I thought 'well, it would be interesting to spend some time in Sudbury. It's not as north as White Horse, but it's still a bit further north than Toronto.'"

"I discovered, which I probably already knew, but I discovered in a different way that there is a whole world north of Toronto. And I guess it was shortly after that that I saw this position advertised and I thought 'well, it would be interesting to spend some time in Sudbury. It's not as north as White Horse, but it's still a bit further north than Toronto.'"

-Bill Lane

During his time here, Lane has been teaching seven courses: Theatre History III, which is 19th-century theatre history;

Theatre History IV, which is 20th-century theatre history; Dramaturgy; Play Analysis; Directing; Theories of Drama and Canadian Theatre.

Lane was particularly enthusiastic about the Dramaturgy course which he believed was "something new for Thorneloe which feels kind of exciting for students and others who are writing plays so they can workshop and showcase those plays."

"With the dramaturgy we're doing an interesting thing. Dramaturgy, I don't think a lot of people know exactly what it is, because it's a fairly new craft in Theatre. Dramaturgy can be one of two things: either looking at older plays and discovering things about them which you need to know in order to produce them; things like what kind of hats they wore in the 19th century, or it can be –and this is where I'm more interested – developing new plays. I have basically turned the dramaturgy course this year into a laboratory for developing new plays and we're going to do a few reading of these plays later," says Lane. "I just think working with living playwrights that are developing is a lot more interesting than working with dead playwrights on plays that will never change."

After having the opportunity to work

on the academic side after so long working on the professional side Bill says: "I guess I've seen the world of Theatre from both sides now; from the side of the professional theatre, which often distrusts the academic world; and from the side of the academic world which often resents or distrusts the professional side. And that's one thing I like about this place too, is that those two sides are close together."

Bill Lane has directed the second main stage play at Thorneloe this academic year entitled *Down the Main Drag*. After his experiences with both the students in his classes and the performers in the play He says: "There are some really talented actors here who are going to be hopefully some of them at least, finding some place in the profession before too long."

Unfortunately, this academic year is coming to an end, meaning Bill's time year is also coming to a close. "I really enjoyed the time I spent here," Lane says. "And I would love to stay a little longer. It's amazing how fast ten months go by. Maybe I'll be back." lambda@laurentian.ca

LU prof shows his musical side

BY WILLIE POLL

The music industry is a fast paced, rapidly growing business that has never seemed to die down. It is ever changing and constantly expanding with new genres and songs released every day. Music is something that can be used as entertainment, a form of expression, as well as a form of communication. It is something that is unique in everyway and incorporates billions of thoughts within it. Musical talent isn't always easy to find, however, one of Laurentian's own, professor Paul Colilli, is draped in it.

Colilli always had an interest in music and has been part of a number of bands. He has taken formal piano lessons, but also managed to teach himself guitar. One of his prime musical accomplishments was being a co-founder of the band "Simply

Saucer."

"I was involved in music in bands in late high school and first years of university," Colilli said. "The one band I was involved with and a founding member, something I'm really proud of, is Simply Saucer which has developed quite a sort of reputation in the last while. I was with Simply Saucer when we first founded the band but then I left before they recorded their first album."

Being a professor and researcher, Colilli has many published works including books, articles, lectures and more, however, this album is meant to document the fact he was also an active participant in the musical world.

"The whole idea of doing this CD in the first place was to document my own experience in music," Colilli said. "My experience as a teacher and

researcher is documented in lectures that I've given, the teaching that I've done, and the books and articles that I've published. When it comes to music, though, I was never part of any album release or record release, so there is no record of my involvement of music, so this album was meant to be like a testament to my involvement in music."

The album is named "Psycho Sacred Music" and can be best described within the alternative genre. The melodies, themes, and lyrics are all very exclusive, and unforgettable. The music was created to provoke listeners to see through an alternative viewpoint and to "look at things of everyday life and our world from a different angle all together as opposed to the type of angle we may be used to." The music can be enjoyed by all ages.

"It's not something that when you hear it, it says, 'OK, this is meant for someone of this specific age, but it's also the type of music where there are words, there's a melody, there's a tune, and people of all ages like anything that has a tune and has words to it because it tells a story,'" Colilli said. "I basically leave it up to the listening public to decide who my music is meant for."

Colilli is a large supporter in the talent of others, as his position within the school is to teach students he has a strong want to see people excel, with academics as well as creativity.

"In a very general sense, I personally encourage creativity," Colilli said. "If somebody has a creative streak in them whether it be writing or filmmaking or music, I strongly recommend that they do it. There are today, specifically

as far as music is concerned, the technologies that didn't exist before that allow you to record without having to spend a lot of money. If you are interested, first of all familiarize yourself with the technologies involved and the various communicative instruments involved so that you can get your music out there, and to just do it. In my case right now my job as a professor I teach, I do research, and music is like a hobby for me really. It's something that is above and beyond something that I do at the university and it's a way of expressing myself in a way that the academic research doesn't allow me to express."

"Psycho Sacred Music" is available through sources such as iTunes, Amazon.com, Napster and others. williepoll@hotmail.ca

LU student writes study guide

BY LIANNA PISANI

Maria Sokolova is a fourth-year biomedical biology student, who began her studies at Laurentian after graduating from Lockerby Composite High School in Sudbury. She struggled with the transition from high school to university, which is what encouraged her to write the first edition of the chemistry study guide, *Surviving University: First Year Chemistry*, the summer after her first year at LU.

"You're just so overwhelmed in your first year, especially in science. You have five labs, and you have five courses. I personally had six courses because I was taking an elective, because I like music. So it's just very hard adjusting, with time management and just the workload. I really struggled— you know, lots of late nights."

For Sokolova, the course textbook was contributing to her struggles because there was so much information given, and it was too detailed. "I thought that the textbooks, they were just way over the top. Too much information. I just thought that in my year, in first year, you have to know everything and understand the basics in order to build on it," she explains.

The objective of Sokolova's study guide is to assist students who may be in the same position she was in her first year of science studies. The guide is written mainly in point form stating the important information, with clear illustrations, all of which Sokolova designed herself, and practice problems. The first published edition of the guide is 273 pages, and was written mainly in August 2009.

"Throughout the year, I would summarize notes in my own words... that's what I did for chemistry; I summarized the whole entire two

courses, and over three weeks, I typed them up, improved them, edited them, and made it into a notebook." Sokolova self-published the very first edition of her book, and gave them away for free in her second year at LU to students and professors.

Dr. Sabine Montaut, who received a free copy of Sokolova's first edition, has been a great help in editing the study guide. "She was very generous and she decided to go through the whole book and correct it."

Dr. Francois Caron also received a copy, and invited Sokolova to a meeting he was having with a representative from Nelson (the publishing company), which led to her being signed on with the company. The guide was also made mandatory in 2010-2011 to be purchased along with the course textbook for first-year students at Laurentian.

Sokolova turned to the students who used her guide "In the end, I asked students for feedback... 91% of them thought that it was helpful. They said give me more examples, give me more illustrations. They pointed at areas they had more problems with and wanted help."

Taking all of these requests into account, the study guide went from 273 to 450 pages with the second edition, which she wrote this past summer. The edition is currently being sold on Nelson's website, and Sokolova is completing the forms in order to sell her textbook nationally, with the hopes of also selling internationally.

"I am very happy with this edition. I think it hit the target of what they're looking for and what my goal is for right now is not to make a new edition, but to make a new book— to make this into a series."

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Photo by Lianna Pisani

Maria Sokolova hopes to make a series of study guides.

Get off my Facebook, Grandma

EDMONTON (CUP) — People say you should respect and listen to your elders, as though old people are Yoda, dripping with wisdom that they should dispense every chance they get. That's bullshit. Old people are some of the least sophisticated and knowledgeable people on this planet. If you want proof, you need only look to Facebook.

For the sake of this argument, I'm going to consider anyone over the age of 50 elderly. We all have old people on our friends list, and they're usually family members or someone otherwise closely related to us. Yeah, we love them in real life, but they are a plague on Facebook that needs to be deleted.

Old people have no idea how to use the Internet. How many times have you logged onto your Facebook only to see your news feed clogged with stupid status updates and crappy Facebook game notifications from

your elderly friends? It's bad enough when I have to put up with shit from people in my cohort. But when I see old people doing it, I start to seriously doubt the supposed wisdom of our elders.

Did you know that 99 per cent of people won't have the guts to repost a status about some stupid bullshit about some stupid faux activist cause? I know that they won't have the guts. I know that because old people post that stuff all the time. But 100 per cent of me doesn't give a shit. Posting a status about breast cancer awareness or human rights crises accomplishes nothing. Keep that crap off my newsfeed.

Even worse is when they post supposedly funny images from the '90s and all their other old-people friends comment on them, explaining how they are so amusing and relevant to their lives. Give it a rest. It's nice

that you finally found your way onto the Internet, but the rest of us saw it years ago.

The elderly can also wreak havoc on Facebook statuses. Nothing diminishes your cool status like having an older relative comment on it. I mean come on, Grandma: I'm stealing quotes about atheism from Richard Dawkins and George Carlin and claiming them as my own so I can show my friends how witty and edgy I am. I don't need you liking or commenting "lol" or "That's nice, dear -Love Grandma," on my status.

And old people love Facebook games like they love going to bed early, complaining about new music and eating mashed vegetables. I don't really have a problem with that. Sure, Facebook games are stupid and pointless, but to each his own. What pisses me off is the flood of invites I get

telling me to join these games.

I don't need to know how many points you've accumulated in Farmville or Mob Wars. Save my fingers the effort of ignoring your invites and don't send them to me. If you really need to brag about it that badly, you can tell me about it in real life. And even then I'll probably ignore you.

Facebook is an amazing modern invention that's being ruined by a bunch of old dinosaurs. I'm not suggesting old people should be kicked off Facebook, because that would be mean. Instead, they should have limited Facebook options. Log on, wish me a happy birthday and then log off. No statuses, no game invites, no comments.

Get off my Facebook, you damn oldies.

Residence life introduce new staff

BY WILLIE POLL

With the school year coming to an end, many decisions must be made for the upcoming year.

Recently the residence life staff has been hired, which includes new members. The hiring process is a long and enduring one. First, you must hand in a resume and application. Secondly, you go to a “carousel” where you are put into groups and expected to perform a series of tasks and team building and leadership exercises. If, after this, they see that you are a worthy candidate you will be brought in for an interview. Here is a short glimpse at a few of the newest residence life team employees:

Spencer Doyle Braithwaite is a new R.A. for SSR.

“When I found out that I was chosen to be an RA in SSR my first reactions were relief and excitement,” Braithwaite said.

Although he is new to being an R.A., he is not new to the residence life team. Braithwaite has a high involvement in school functions. He also served a peer mentor this year.

“I feel as though I was chosen to be an RA because of the involvement that I have within the residence as well as my ability to get other people involved as well,” Braithwaite said. “Besides this I think it generally has to do with the current position of being a PM and the work that I have done this year that aided to my preparedness in being an RA next year.”

Nicole Johnson is one of the new R.A.’s for the upcoming year. She is placed in University College Residence, and is thrilled to be there.

“I was very excited when I found out that I got the position,” Johnson said. “And even more excited when I found out who the

other girl RA’s were going to be in UC I feel like its going to be a great year.”

Johnson is predicting a great result for next year. She already has plans in place to make next year one of the best.

“Next year I’m hoping on trying and get the floors in UC to be a little more social with each other,” Johnson said. “Since all of the girl RA’s basically know each other I feel this should be easy to accomplish and will make residence next year a lot of fun.”

Johnson said she wants to make first-year students feel comfortable in a new environment.

“We were all first year students once, and it’s easier for some than others,” Johnson said. “I’m looking forward to helping first year students in the transition to university and hopefully doing different things to make the year fun.”

Kelsey Anthony is another member who

is recently joining the residence life team as an R.A. next year.

“I am overjoyed to be an R.A. next year for UC,” Anthony said. “I can honestly say I was nervous going for the interviews and stuff, but I feel like I’m a great person for the job. I’m outgoing, fun, responsible, and promise to give it my best.”

Anthony has participated in many events including air bandz (where she won an individual award), LU’s got talent (her three person duet won), and in intramural sports.

“I am always involved with what is going on and feel like I have the ability to get others involved,” Anthony said. “I am very enthusiastic and bring that enthusiasm to those around me.”

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LU students attend international convention

BY MATT RABEY

This year’s Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada held the International Convention at the Toronto Convention Centre from March 4 to 7. The world’s largest mining convention had approximately 30,000 people attend this year including students from Laurentian University’s Earth Sciences department.

The convention had multiple companies from 120 countries all with exhibits and displays to present their work. Nicole Breng, one of the geology students from Laurentian University explained,

“Exploration companies go there and show their prospects or try to find new investors. Investors try to find companies and their projects; other companies just go there and present themselves and their projects there.”

The event had workshops available, presentations and job opportunities. Fourth year geology student Laura Béague said,

“(There were) meetings, conferences, enterprisiers and scientists that came to talk about the job and some of the deposits.”

Béague continued to tell about what the opportunities for university students would be like,

“In Canada as an almost graduated student we would be more likely to be

junior geologists out in the field where we (would) do exploration. We’re young so they’ll be sending us up north or up the side of a mountain.”

Breng added, “One of my friends talked to a chief geologist of a company and now she has a job for the summer.”

One of the best parts of attending the convention according to Breng was the core shack where samples were on display.

“It’s really interesting, it’s where the core samples are presented. There are samples of their best projects with the core cut in half and they are polished so you can really see the veins.”

Laurentian University had its own display and a room at the convention as Béague explained,

“Laurentian rented a room for three or four hours just to present the university so that people could come and meet students, it made it really easy for us to make contacts.”

The annual convention is held every year in Toronto and is a positive experience for geology students as Breng said,

“It is definitely a nice experience and if I ever have this possibility again I would take it for sure.”

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LU Pride hosts one girl, five gays

BY LIANNA PISANI

One of the events kicking off LU Pride Week was a spin off of MTV Canada’s hit show, 1 Girl 5 Gays– the Laurentian Edition. Amber White, the person in charge of LUCA (the Classics Association) and the History Society, hosted the event as the “1 Girl.” She was joined by five volunteers who answered two hours-worth of questions about love, sex, relationships, and the LGBTQ community on Monday, March 5.

“Would you ever make a sex tape?” White asked as her first question. As the “show” went on, questions got even more personal, venturing into discussing topping, bottoming, embarrassing sexual encounters, and owning the phrase, “that’s so gay.”

White enjoyed creating the questions for her volunteers, though she has never watched the MTV version of the show before. “You’ve got great subjects, great subject matter. How can it go wrong? I just thought of what I would want to know, and went from there,” she says.

Spreading the message about taking control over

derogatory slang is important to the LU Pride Association. “It’s my personal belief that saying gay as an insult, especially when not talking about people, isn’t the best but there are just bigger fish to fry. I also feel that homosexuals would be better off owning their slang terms used against them such as the words ‘faggot’ and ‘dyke,’” comments James Spires, the vice-president of Pride.

Spires believes that by taking control, the LGBTQ community can fight back against the bullying. He adds, “... the gay rights movement will and should be looking towards a more presence into finally being accepted for being different, rather than just saying it gets better– actually making it happen and fighting back against harassment.”

Questions continued to get close and personal as White asked each volunteer to recreate, for the audience, his or her “O” face (orgasm face), and another question sparked a discussion about having sexual relations with the Queen of England.

Audience members enjoyed the event, laughing throughout the 2 hours. Sam Robichaud, an

audience member, said “I really enjoyed how it was different from each person’s perspective and it’s kind of like getting out of that element. It’s really cool to see other people’s opinions from the gay community.”

Because of the event’s success, the Pride Association is considering hosting another “episode” of this type of event in the future. Jesse Depatie, the President, comment, “The 1g5g panel was a big success for Pride Week at LU. It was great to be on a panel of people who brought very different perspectives to the table and who were willing to be open and honest about everything. I think the fact that we had a relatively small audience also made it less intimidating for us. I also have to thank Amber White who did an amazing job facilitating the discussion - she asked the perfect balance of funny and serious questions. We couldn’t have had a better host. I would definitely do an event like this again in a heartbeat.”

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Naked Tuesdays a ‘funny story:’ Puchala

BY RYEN VELDHUIS

If you were walking past the Games Room sometime in the afternoon of Tuesday, March 13, then you may have noticed three people wearing almost no clothes.

In fact, you may have noticed one of them in particular who has been doing this every Tuesday for a while now.

Samantha Puchala, a second-year Sciences Politiques and Études Françaises student has made a ritual out of coming to Laurentian “naked” on Tuesdays; a day she has deemed: “Naked Tuesdays.”

“Naked Tuesdays is the promotion of being naked on Tuesdays. So it’s just kind of a novelty idea that started. It’s basically just the idea of showing up naked and supporting various causes; being open with one’s body and to start conversations. That’s what this is about,” Puchala says.

In terms of how “Naked Tuesdays” started, “It’s actually a funny story,” she says. “A lot of people have Tuesday night classes and I have French Grammar, which can be kind of dry sometime. So I was joking around with friends that we need something to spice Tuesdays up, because they’re long days. So that idea was kind of floating around in my head and then one day at home I was kind of lounging around naked. I was joking with my roommate saying that ‘I have to go to grammar now’ –for the evening –and I just said: ‘I don’t feel like putting clothes on, I’m too lazy’ and he just said: ‘so, go naked’ and I’m like ‘oh my God, that’s a really good idea’ so I did it. And from there it just kind of started and things got going.”

On March 13, 2012, Puchala came in mostly body paint over her bare skin. Along with her was Stephanie Barry, a second-

year Laurentian student wearing a bathing suit and decorated in full body paint.

Joining them was Bryan Cayouette, a second-year Law student who undressed to his boxers.

“The trend is picking up. Initially it was just me. Other people inquired and appreciated the freedom of expression and the outgoing nature of it and they decided to jump on board,” says Puchala, in relation to them participating.

However, not everybody appreciates Samantha’s form of “freedom of expression and the outgoing nature of it.”

A Laurentian student, who wishes to remain anonymous, says: “My professor made today’s class an open lecture and therefore I’m currently sitting in a classroom with these two individuals and I find it very distracting. I’m paying to be in this class and this lecture will be on the final exam in some way or another, yet I cannot focus because there are two naked girls.

She added: “I am all for ‘freedom of expression’, but this is a little extreme. Aren’t there laws against public indecency? I consider this to be public indecency.

“While one of them is wearing a bathing suit, the other one is wearing body paint in replacement of a shirt. I find this extremely distracting.”

Security has visited Puchala a few times, according to the Naked Tuesdays initiator.

“I have had a few visits from security, so those have been interesting,” Puchala says. “I have always been respectful of security. I tell them it’s all done with respect; there is no sexual intent behind it or anything like that. They’ve been very understanding. They say: ‘Well,

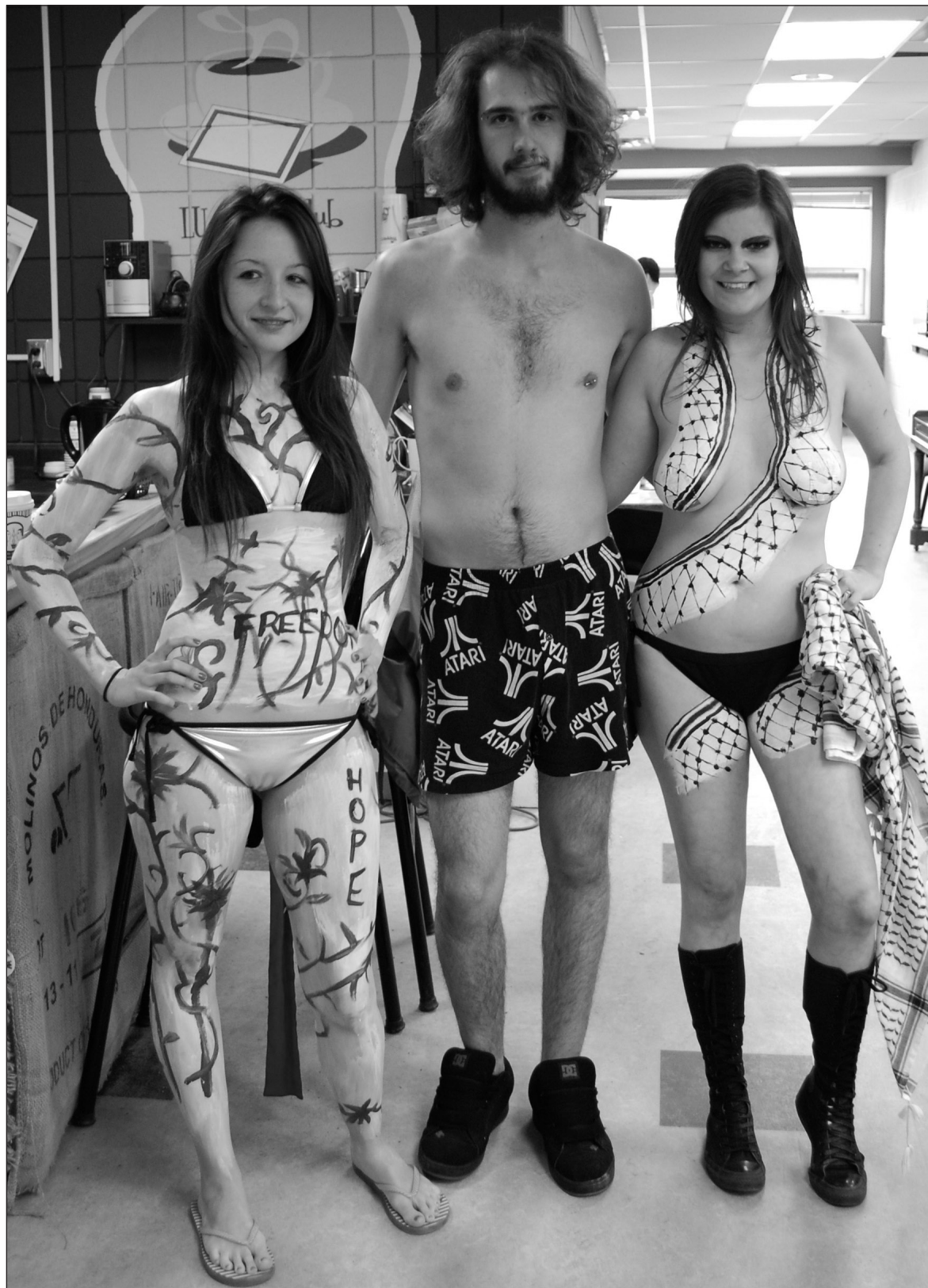


Photo By Ryan Neal

Stephanie Barry (left), Bryan Cayouette and Samantha Puchala pose for a picture in the Games Room on naked Tuesday.

you’re naked’ and I say: ‘Well, thereof. Then they say: ‘OK, no. I have different props that I integrate into my outfit or lack

thereof. Then they say: ‘OK, well, case closed then’ and they carry on with their day.”

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The Smell of Fashion

**COLUMN BY
LIANNA PISANI**

Going to World MasterCard Toronto Fashion Week (March 12-17) was like entering a different universe. The second I put my foot on pavement and bounced out of the cab, I knew I was in for something fabulous.

Camera flashes liven the scene in every direction as hundreds of well-dressed fashion lovers from all over the world mingle. Picture a photoshoot on the set of the Sex and the City movie, times a million.

It's a place where you can compare mint blue versus seafoam green nail polishes (this actually happened), discuss the many shades of charcoal, and complain about how sore your feet are yet how great they look in your shoes with no judgement.

Walking through the courtyard out in front of David Pecaut square is like walking down the runway itself. You feel like a supermodel as street style photographers take your picture while you strut by on the red carpet.

Everyone watches to see who is arriving, and what and who he or she is wearing. Street style photographers gather outside before and after each show to see what style gems they might catch, snapping photos of anyone with great style and a confident walk.

I was photographed and interviewed by Elle Canada on Day 1, and Toronto Life on Day 2.

While my heart was pounding and my mind racing, thinking, "They think I'm stylish out of hundreds of people here!," I nonchalantly agreed to have my photo taken and casually walked on before texting/tweeting/Facebook-ing everyone I know that I am going to be famous.

At "the tents," as the setup is commonly referred to, everyone chatted and refreshed themselves in a lounge carpeted by Korhani Home (who was first to hit the runway Monday night). There were curtained entrances to

both the Studio Room (a smaller runway) and the Runway Room (which could seat over 1,000 guests).

I was lucky enough to have a media pass, and therefore was permitted to enter both rooms, as well as the enchanting media lounge, with its desks covered in Macbook Pros, and a cooler filled with complementary VitaminWater.

"While my heart was pounding and my mind racing, thinking, 'They think I'm stylish out of hundreds of people here!,' I nonchalantly agreed to have my photo taken and casually walked on before texting/tweeting/Facebook-ing everyone I know that I am going to be famous."

On Day 1, while in the media lounge, a gorgeous woman in black shorts, a majestic purple blazer, and a red fur oversized collar strutted in, asking me, "So this is the media lounge?" I didn't recognize her at the time, but I knew she had to be important. She smelled like fashion, much like the Runway Room did. I answered affirmatively, and continued to see this woman all week.

On Monday, I had been too naïve to recognize her as Stacey McKenzie—supermodel, Canada's top fashion guru, and recent judge on Canada's Next Top Model. By Friday, I had enough courage to ask her for a photo together. I did my best casual "I could be a model" walk past her in the general lounge, and watched as she pointed at me and then proceeded to curl her finger, summoning me over.

When I finally reached her, she insisted I sit beside her, and then complimented both my

shoes and my outfit. I gave a cool smile, and said "Thank you," all the while imagining how my Twitter followers would react to such news.

"Who makes your shoes?" she asked. And I didn't know! I couldn't remember in the wake of such a fashionista. It was no problem, though. She simply told me to take my shoe off and check, and I gladly obliged. You do what Stacey tells you. The photo of us is already on Facebook.

Quite possibly the best thing about Fashion Week is talking to strangers. Parents generally teach their children to avoid talking to strangers, but trust me; at Fashion Week, you want to talk to as many strangers as possible.

You never know who you might be talking to until you ask for a business card— and you should definitely ask for a business card. I was lucky enough to meet a number of celebrities, fashion bloggers (including Spiro Mandylor), photographers, Public Relations associates, and journalists (including writers from Huffington Post, and National Post).

Don't worry, I am bringing home an inch-thick stack of business cards— and one of my new-found friends sneakily saved me a seat next to him in the front row for the Soïa & Kyo show!

I am still amazed with myself for making it to 20 of the 31 total studio and runway shows—including studio show of one of the most-talked about young designers, Adrian Wu, as well as other highly anticipated shows like Joe Fresh, and David Dixon.

While none of the shows were scheduled before 2 or 3pm (so as not to disrupt anyone's beauty sleep, I would imagine), most guests didn't leave the tents until 10pm, which made for some very long days, and some very sore feet.

By the end of Fashion Week, the days began to meld together as the most notable runway

shows and clothing floated around within my mind. My feet are quite thrilled with the week having come to a close, but

my body is craving the smell of fashion.

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Amber White is Black Widow



BY KALLIE BERENS

Fourth-year History major Amber White is not a one-club woman. Natalia Romanova, otherwise known as the Black Widow, is affiliated with S.H.I.E.L.D., Avengers, Champions and more - White is not far off. White is an integral member of many clubs and organizations on campus, including the White is an integral member of many clubs and organizations on campus, including vice president and public relations rep of the Laurentian University History Society, president of the LU Classical Studies Association, the SGA elections committee, the undergraduate representative for the History department, student representative

for the Dean Council for the Humanities and holds the SGA's Classical Studies board seat. Both White and the Black Widow use weapons in their line of work - White's pens and pencils used to conquer exams and assignments are just as effective as the Black Widow's "widow's bite" bracelets that send out energy blasts measured at 30,000 volts.

The Black Widow is an accomplished ballerina in her spare time, and White is not far off - at a recent event LUCA organized, a toga party, White danced the night away in a grey toga with a fancy olive branch in her hair.

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Illustrations provided by Marvel Comics

Black Widow is a staple in almost every Avengers line-up, ever, much like Amber White is heavily involved all over the SGA. Black Widow has been a all-star in the Marvel Universe for years, and is always a prominent figure.



Music unifies LU students

BY KALLIE BERENS

Ten thousand students at Laurentian University, from all around the world, have different interests and hobbies.

One common past time of students is music - whether it be listening to an album while studying or playing an instrument with a group of friends it can be found all around campus if one looks hard enough. Students listen to music while working out in the gym, countless studies have been made proving that listening to music while studying can help improve focus and memory, different genres of music - such as country - dictate themed pub nights and on the Internet people exchange Youtube videos of songs that they like with their friends. Music, to many, is a unifying force that can bring people together.

Kristine Cornejo is a first-year student living on residence who plays piano and sings. After performing at LU's Got Talent - and winning first place with the group she played in - she performed at the SGA Charity Ball in February. Cornejo, a fan of R&B, met fellow group members Dylan Bakhuis and Kelsey Anthony in September after discovering that they had a mutual interest in performing together. Their "sound" involves beat-boxing, singing, a guitar and rapping.

Fellow group member Kelsey Anthony has been playing guitar since grade five, at first taking lessons but then discovering that her love for music was "slipping." She has been writing her own material and singing since high school, playing talent shows and youth coffee house events in her hometown of Orangeville.

When asked what her favourite part of playing music was, Anthony said "the fact that people appreciate it. I don't think I would continue playing music if I didn't get the positive feedback that I get now. I also think of it as an escape route - some people when they're stressed out will write or play video games - and I find that music is my escape. When I get overwhelmed with things I just pick up my guitar and I feel better."

Anthony feels that music is an important part of her life. This summer she made a bucket list with her friend, and on the list was to go to as many concerts as she could.

Anthony is also a "huge Lights fan," and saw her play at the SGA frosh concert in September. She also jokingly called herself a "huge stalker," after waiting for two hours for a chance to meet Lights and to get a photograph with her and an autograph.

Anthony said that she is a fan of the artist because of her music, and the fact that she posts video blogs showcasing her raw talent online. "They show that she's a real person, and I really appreciate that about her,"



Photo by Ryan Neal

Kelsey Anthony, an LU student, has been playing guitar since grade five. She is pictured here playing.

Anthony said.

When asked what she loves the most about concerts, Anthony smiled. "If I didn't go to concerts and see the musicians, I feel like I wouldn't know my love for music. I've thought about it, and it wasn't actually until I arrived at Laurentian and was away from everything and had a chance to think, and I've been considering getting an agent. The more my love grows for music, the more I want to do it."

However, Anthony said that she would like to see more of a music scene at Laurentian. "It's definitely underground," she said, "If you aren't really looking for a music scene here, you're not going to find it. People don't really advertise their music

skills around the school."

Iain Park, SGA's Vice President of Student Services, and Emmett Turkington, a third-year English and Philosophy student, discussed the topic of Laurentian's music scene over casual Budweisers at the pub. Their different roles in the music scene - Park is an event planner and Turkington plays in a local band - brought different perspectives to light about the music scene at Laurentian.

Park believes that the music scene is growing not just at the university, but all around the city. "There's a large demand for electronic music in Sudbury, which is great, because it's transforming from a rock and country city to one that incorporates other

types of music and reflects the diversity of the city," he said.

"Sudbury has a wide and diverse range of culture, and in that comes a cultural music taste and that's finally becoming recognized," said Park, "that's great, because it shows Laurentian's growth as a community."

Turkington agrees, but believes that Laurentian has more room to grow. "I find that Laurentian has the potential to have a really wicked music scene," he said, "I know a lot of clubs on campus have open mic nights, but those can only go so far - if you have a few kids read poetry, then if an interpretive death metal band wants to play, they would be discouraged because they don't want to interrupt the vibe."

Park and Turkington brought up a concern for students, the claim that Park only chooses electronic acts to play SGA concerts. Park said that there is a "large demand" for electronic music, and mentioned that "it is the fastest growing type of music in North America right now." Turkington added, "if people say that students don't want to hear electronic music, then why do the shows sell out?"

Turkington brought up a suggestion to bring more music to Laurentian. "Something that I'd like to see at Laurentian is live music coming to the pub," he said, "I think that there are people here who want to play music but don't think there are enough opportunities on campus. Probably every third person on campus plays guitar or sings or plays flute but there's nothing they can do about it."

Turkington and Park agree that music is a "fundamental part of the university experience," and that live music is especially important to university students.

"It's to be a part of the sound, a part of the music," said Turkington. Park said that shows in the Sudbury area are important - "these artists come to Sudbury and play the smaller venues and they have a more intimate experience - a lot of people get to meet the artists after the show usually, which adds to the intimacy."

"When you see someone perform in person you're putting a face to the sound and you can see them for real and it's such a spectacle to see that you can't really discredit it," Turkington said, "artists don't just make a CD and not tour. They want to tour because they want to bring the music to you in a different way."

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How porn is turning us into performers

VANCOUVER (CUP) — No other generation in human history has had so much sex around them. From the increasingly graphic sexual content in movies and TV to the endless depths of pornography online, sex is all around us from an early age.

But despite the wealth of sexual voyeurism, it's possible our sex lives are worse than ever.

Most parents spend more time avoiding our questions about sex than answering them. Academic institutions are increasingly terrified of being politically incorrect. Meanwhile, porn dominates over 12 per cent of all websites. It's quick, it's free and within seconds, we can have the answers to all of our questions. With over 86 million visitors per day, porn has become sex education for young people.

Cindy Gallop, creator of the website "Make Love, Not Porn," gave a TED talk on this subject that quickly went viral — in part because of her raunchy subject matter. She explicitly described how her sexual experiences with younger men have exposed to her the shocking ramifications that the hardcore porn industry has had on our culture.

In the video, Gallop talked of having to regularly decline an attempted "facial" with, "Actually, no thank you very much, I would much rather you did not come on my face."

But she is especially concerned about the

young girl "whose boyfriend wants to come on her face, she does not want him to come on her face, but hardcore porn has taught her that all men love coming on women's faces, all women love having their faces come on, and therefore she must let him come on her face, and she must pretend to like it."

In an interview with The Ubysey, Gallop explains that porn has made the job of sex education even harder. "There's an entire generation growing up that believes that what you see in hardcore pornography is the way that you have sex."

Prior to porn, those parents brave enough to take on the task of educating their children about sex simply had to talk about the logistics. Nowadays, the conversation has to address what the Internet is showing teenagers. As Gallop puts it: "Darling, we know you're online, we know you're looking at an awful lot of porn, so we just need to let you know that not all women like being bound, gagged, choked, spit on or gang-banged."

Lori Brotto, a UBC professor from the department of obstetrics and gynecology, suggests that the porn itself isn't necessarily the problem. "It can expose people to new and different forms of stimuli to enhance their sexual arousal response and it can also be useful for couples wishing to add variety and intensity to their sexual experiences."

Where the danger lies is in misunderstanding what your partner wants in their sex life. "If one partner is opposed to pornography and one in favour, then it can create jealousy, resentment and deception," says Brotto.

"Today's porn is more than a masturbation aid," wrote Gary Wilson and Marina Robinson for the online magazine The Good Men Project. "It replaces imagination with multiple tabs, constant searching, fast-forwarding to the perfect scene, a voyeuristic perspective."

The problem we're now facing is that of a generation of performers. With over 80 per cent of North American children aged 15–17 having watched hardcore pornography on multiple occasions, and the average age of first exposure being 11, many girls know how to give the perfect blowjob before they've even seen a penis in the flesh. They also know what positions to get into, what noises to make and what they are "supposed" to like and dislike.

But when it comes down to actually having sex for real, will we take the cues that porn has given us? Gallop's experience answers the question resoundingly: yes!

"We all feel enormously vulnerable when we get naked," Gallop says. "Sexual egos are very fragile, and people find it bizarrely difficult to talk about sex with the people they are actually having sex with because

you're terrified of hurting the other person's feelings, putting them off you, derailing the entire encounter. But at the same time, you want to please your partner, and you'll seize your cues on how to do that from anywhere you can, and if the only cues you have are from porn, then those are the ones you will take."

Today it's not uncommon for two people to be in a sexual relationship, neither of them particularly enjoying what's going on, but both believing that this is the way they should be having sex. Due to our over-exposure to porn, even open-minded, sexually aware people are struggling to figure out what genuinely turns them on. The lines are becoming blurred between what we want, and what we think we should want.

This sense of inauthentic pleasure is, more than anything else, very depressing. "Sex is the area of human experience that embraces that vastest possible range of proclivities," says Gallop. Everybody has different sexual desires, fantasies, wants and needs, which is what makes sex such a beautiful way to express yourself.

In the end, Gallop's message is actually pretty simple: talk about it. The way forward is sexual honesty.

— With files from Veronika Khvorostukhina

Sue Johanson: let's talk about sex

WINNIPEG (CUP) — Many Canadians of a variety of ages can associate late night sex-related programming with none other than the world-renowned sex educator Sue Johanson, host of the now-retired The Sunday Night Sex Show.

Johanson was awarded the Order of Canada for her work in the field of sex education, providing many young people with knowledge they wouldn't otherwise receive from schooling or home — all before the popularity of her television show.

Eventually, her show became a massive success and was broadcast nationally. But despite this, Johanson continues to travel, doing talks at universities, even appearing on The Tonight Show with Jay Leno and Conan O'Brien. But how did it all start?

The Manitoban was fortunate enough to interview Johanson last year and asked her a few questions about student sex lives and health.

In the early 1970s, Johanson opened a birth control clinic at Don Mills Collegiate in North

York, Ont. — the very first of its kind in Canada. After managing the clinic for several years as a registered nurse, she realized that she had to do more.

"[I came to] the realization that kids were having sex and they weren't sure what they were doing [because] they weren't getting good sex education at school, and they certainly weren't getting much from home."

So, after this revelation — for which thousands of us can be thankful — Johanson went back to school to study education.

"Once I got started, it was just '...ain't nobody gonna stop me now!'"

Johanson says that one of the biggest problems university students and young adults face is still a lack of sexual knowledge. Even with a variety of programs across Canada, young adults still ask very basic questions, demonstrating that even better sexual education is needed.

"It depends on where they come from, as some provinces have a much better sex education

curriculum than other provinces. Some boys are still asking, 'How do I make my penis bigger?' And some girls are asking, 'How do I reach orgasm?'" explained Johanson. "Whereas, [in] areas with good sex education, [young adults] are asking much more in-depth questions."

When asked just how much bad sex is going on out there and what could people do to make their sexual experiences better, Johanson had several suggestions for this complex yet common issue.

The first rule, according to Johanson, is communication.

"[Communication] certainly keeps the doors open in the relationship... My main message has always been: know what you're doing, think ahead, plan ahead. Never let sex just happen and always practice safer sex. And that's primarily for women."

Johanson went on to explain that, surprisingly — or perhaps it's no surprise at all — when it comes to sex, men are often the ones who plan every last detail leading up to the event and "females don't.

They tend to just let it happen and that's what keeps them 'sweet and innocent.'"

Elaborating on this message, Johanson really brought home the point to never let sex "just happen."

"A lot of that is [because of] drinking... You go to the bar with a bunch of girls and you meet some gorgeous hunk and you just get carried away [because] you've had too much to drink and you let it happen."

The main reason for this being a dangerous thing to do, according to Johanson, is because however fun spontaneous sex may be with a stranger, you are much less likely to take preventative measures to ensure that the sex is safe or find out what your partner's health background is. This happens all too easily if two people have been drinking and meet somewhere public, be it a party or a bar. "When you meet somebody at a bar, are you asking them: 'Is there something I should know?' [or] 'Have you had herpes?' and is he asking her, 'Are you on birth

control?'"

Last year, a BBC documentary questioned whether or not oral sex is as "safe" as many people believe, in response to recent studies that are beginning to show that an HPV infection in the gastrointestinal tract can lead to oral cancer. The Manitoban decided to bring this up with Johanson.

"You can get HPV orally and it is very, very difficult to treat because normally [it is] treated with surgical removal or burning it off or lasering it. So if it is in the middle of your gut it is kind of hard to get at and you don't know you have to worry about kissing your partner or giving oral to your partner."

If you are looking for more information about sex, Johanson's website, www.talksexwithsue.com, answers a lot of common questions as well as many in-depth ones and is an excellent resource to people of all ages.

Italian and Hispanic Clubs host 'best' Festa Fiesta

BY LIANNA PISANI

On Friday, Mar. 9, Incontri (the Italian Club) and the Hispanic Club hosted their annual combined semi-formal event, Festa Fiesta, at the Caruso Club. Guests this year enjoyed a "Golden Night" of socializing, an hour of free champagne, a buffet dinner, games, and a dance.

Although the theme was Golden Night, guests arrived in an array of formalwear, ranging in colour. They walked in on a red carpet, and had photos taken at the photo booth by Matthew Lehtelä, a final year graphic design student from Cambrian College, before finding a seat and getting ready for the champagne hour.

Both clubs hoped to share their cultures with the guests of the evening. "This event allows those who attend to taste both the Italian and Hispanic cultures for an evening. The turnout we received clearly proved that there's a great appreciation and support for these cultures," comments Carlos Siller, the President of the Hispanic Club.

One of the most exciting times of the evening was during the games. Volunteers played an intense game of musical chairs, in which they were each given a task (such as borrow someone's smart phone and bring it back with you) and one chair was removed from the game during each task. The game became especially risky with the last task—returning to the last chair with a pair of men's pants stolen from the legs of someone attending the event.

There was also a piñata, which



Photo supplied

Carlos Castro takes his turn at the pinata at Festa Fiesta, hosted at the Caruso Club.

guests managed to break open after breaking not one, but two hitting devices— one a wooden stick, the other a metal broom handle.

Both clubs are extremely

pleased with the great turnout of the evening. "It turned out to be such an epic night for the Italian and Spanish clubs of Laurentian! The gold night was a great

success and we hit a number of 200 people!" comments Vanessa Pisani, the President of Incontri.

Siller agrees. "Me and my executive members had high

expectations for the event, and they were pleasantly exceeded! This was by far the best Festa Fiesta of all time."

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Encore Theatre's A Street Car Named Desire: a dramatic reading review

BY RYEN VELDHUIS

A Streetcar Named Desire, by Tennessee Williams played its first and only performance on the night of Friday March 16, 2012 at 8 p.m. This one night only dramatic reading was directed by Callam Rodya and marked the end of Encore Theatre and Thorneloe's Playscript Series. It follows the character Blanche Dubois (Cora Eckert) as she arrives at her sister, Stella Kowalski (Jocelyn Dotta) and brother-in-law, Stanley Kowalski's (Richard Barlow) home to visit for a while. There she meets an intriguing man, Harold "Mitch" Mitchell (Nicholas Barbeau) while trying to keep her past a secret.

Right from the beginning Cora takes the stage with an impressive performance for a dramatic reading. She brings a lot to her character on an emotional level and fights one of the all-too-common barriers of dramatic reading: being confined to the script. In a dramatic reading, something most actors tend to suffer from is having their faces locked on their scripts. Cora avoids this very well for the approximate two and a half hour running time of the performance while having a character with a dominant amount of lines. It is very clear she has put a lot of effort into the role and has done a splendid job on the stage.

However, some performers tended to stay a little more focused on the reading of the lines than their actual performances. This would include Jocelyn Dotta and, to a lesser extent, Richard Barlow.

Jocelyn began as a little monotonous, even for a dramatic reading; but by the final scene she had pulled her character into a worthwhile performance. Whenever she was off book, something that showed with most actors, her overall quality increased drastically.

Richard, on the other hand, was less interesting

when simply reading from the lines than he was when he was off book. In scene three, which was, as a whole, one of the more enjoyable scenes in the production, Richard no longer read from his script during the second half and his character evolved into something fearful. His performance became very impressive very fast as he swept about the stage, his character in a drunken rage.

On the other hand, small appearances by Eunice (Jenny Hazelton) and Steve (Bob Derrenbacher) Hubbell were very comical and were very refreshing during the performance. Much of their dialogue was off stage or "next door" and made quite a few people laugh, myself included.

It was disappointing that the production had minimal movement and comprised of many music stands to place the scripts of the actors on while they read in character; this lead to some scenes being almost entirely actors standing and reading. Even though this is a dramatic reading and not a full-fledged production, past shows had had what seemed to be much more effort put into them. With their last production having almost all actors off book, it made this one look a little less thorough; however this production was a heftier length.

By the end I was generally disappointed with A Streetcar Named Desire; but the performances of some actors in particular kept me in the show. It didn't quite live up to the standards of what Encore Theatre has been presenting; but the debut of Down Dangerous Passes Road is right around the corner, with its opening show on April 20.
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Parking problems: letter to the editor

LETTER BY JESSE GAUDET

I would like to bring to your attention the lack of respect for paying staff and student among school parking lots. During the mining event last thursday, parking was strained with a large influx visitors. While I am the first to support events taking place both at Laurentian and in Sudbury, I do feel that those paying for the parking should be the first to receive the services. While going to park in my assigned lot, lot number 1, I was told by a parking lot attendant that the lot was full and that I was required to park near the Northern Ontario school of Medicine. I believe this is absolutely ridiculous as the pathways were full of water and melting ice, as well as me being over 5 minutes late for class, due to the fact i was not prepared to walk such a distance. We, both as students and staff, pay and increasingly absurd price for parking (nearly 500\$ a year, when I am already gauged nearly 6,000.00\$ a year for tuition) only to be forced to park in another location, while visitors are left to park in our spots, free of charge. Mr president, I assume when you pay for a service, you expect that service to be delivered, promptly and responsibly. This is NOT the way to conduct business at Laurentian University, and I feel deeply chagrined about the circumstances. This is not the first

time this has happened, it has even happened to me during exam time! I have CC'd many individuals and parties, as I hope to empower many students on the issue and get them involved. If you are to hold events, do not remove our parking, we already pay crazy and ridiculous prices for a service that should be covered by the tuition. I think if you cannot deliver the service to students, then students should be partially reimbursed for the services that could not be delivered like promised. Of course, of this was a free service I would not be complaining, but this is not the case. As I have clearly stated, the prices are insane and If I am to pay for a high costs service, I expect to see outstanding results, of which I am not seeing at this University. While you may be quick to point out public transit, this is not possible for me as I live in the outskirts and would require over 2 hours of buses to get to school. That is the whole reason I bought a car, however not to be price gauged by the university for parking that makes utterly no sense, especially during these events where our parking rights are removed. I will be signing up as many students as possible, possibly even the creation of a petition as I do realize many students feel very strongly, as do I, about this topic. I am deeply disappointed in Laurentian.



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Therapy clinic now available for students

BY RON GUILLET

Laurentian University students now have access to a therapy clinic, as included in the student levy, at ATRC Chronic Pain and Sports Clinic.

Laurentian previously had a clinic on campus, the Voyageur Athletic Therapy Clinic, but it was shut down last summer when the university decided to allocate more money towards academic programming.

SGA president Charlie Andrews said it was imperative for the university to offer the service.

"It is crucial for students to have access to athletic therapy, especially our talented varsity athletes

and students in athletic programs," Andrews said. "Most importantly, students paid for this service at the beginning of the year. Not to mention, other universities with strong athletic programs have Athletic Therapy, thus, it is unacceptable for Laurentian University to not have the same service for the students."

Andrews said students can expect to pay \$5.00 in their tuition for four free visits with a professional athletic therapist before they have to pay. He also said another reason they signed a contract with the company is because "they increased the coverage to students from \$240 to \$320, which gives students more visits."

Andrews said the contract is short-term, as it ends on Aug. 31, and will be evaluated by the SGA/AGE executive next year.

"This is a short-term contract to ensure our athletic students can take advantage of the service," Andrews said in a report to the SGA board. "The executive of next year can determine whether they should renew the contractor or not. The therapist will be keeping stats on students using the service."

ATRC Chronic Pain and Sports Clinic, located at 2140 Regent St. Unit 12, is open Monday to Friday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. and can be reached by telephone at 705-674-2222. ronguillet@gmail.com

Jones tops impressive season with Olympic Trials

BY RON GUILLET

Emily Jones has had an impressive season with the Laurentian Aqua Vees.

Jones, a third-year Sports Administration student, will return for at least one more season and possibly an additional one. She just finished competing at the CIS Championships and will now be competing at the Olympic Trials at the end of the month.

"It will be an awesome experience to be a part of, and to be able to compete at that high level of competition with nation's best," Jones said. "My goal is to make the top 20 in my best event, the 100m backstroke."

Jones started competitive swimming 15 years ago and said she got involved with the sport because generations of her family were competitive swimmers and she felt it was "the natural thing to do."

A logical decision, it seems, as Jones holds the records at Laurentian University for the 50m, 100m and 200m backstrokes, and was on three out of four record-holding relay teams. What's more impressive is that Jones has topped her own records with

each passing year, consistently raising the bar.

Jones credits her success in swimming to rigorous training.

"I have had a great training season this year and have been able to push myself mentally and physical through a lot," Jones said. "I also trained hard right through the summer so physically I was right back where I ended my season, and even better."

Jones personal goal for next season is to once again raise the bar.

"My biggest goal right now is to make the 'A' finals at CIS championships next year," Jones said. "I just missed it this year placing 9th, so next year that is achievable. For my last one or two years I just want to get the best times I can and get as low in my national rankings as I can, while at the same time having fun and making the most of it."

As for the highlight of her season, Jones said "getting a bronze medal at the OUA's and being up on that podium" was an unforgettable experience. ronguillet@gmail.com

Column: LU's number one fans follow b-ball teams

BY LAURA THIRKILL

Laurentian University is known across the country for our pride and school spirit when it comes to our varsity sports teams. The Pot Banger Club at the men's and women's basketball games are known for creating a great deal of racket behind the opponent's bench so that neither the players, nor the coach, can think, let alone hear each other. This tradition of involved and dedicated fans has been around for years but this year a group of five men showed outstanding dedication for the men's basketball team.

On Saturday, March 25, 2012 Sean Postma, Derek Janssen, Nick Plourde, Matt George and Warren Brown worked from 7:30 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. setting up and organizing the Nordic Skiing OUA Championship here at Laurentian. They then jumped in a van and travelled 500km to Carleton University in Ottawa to watch and cheer on the men's team as they

faced the team that would become the national champions.

Many LU students tuned into the Streaming Sports Network online for the webcast of the game that night at 8pm. After the singing of the national anthem, the commentators started to discuss these fans that made LU so proud. While scanning the basketball court, the camera caught a glimpse of the Laurentian Voyageur mascot on the floor with the men's team. The commentators noted how this had never been seen before, especially since the Raven's mascot was not there to represent the home team.


Our men's basketball team played a terrific game against the number one team in the country. The team had a phenomenal defensive game keeping it tied at the end of the first quarter, and were only down by 8 at half. With two minutes left in the third quarter, the Voyageurs were within three points of the Ravens, but

were ultimately defeated by a score of 87-66. Coach Shawn Swords was proud that his team was able to keep pace offensively with the number one team in the country for three of the four quarters.

For the fans that made the trip, it was still totally worth it and they said that they would do it again in a heartbeat. Voyageur men's soccer goalie, George, was the one who originally suggested that the boys make the trip after the first round playoff victory at home. Janssen was proud to represent LU and states that they cheered "respectfully and passionately". Needless to say, he was voiceless the next day when the boys returned for work again at 7:30 a.m. after travelling home all night. lambda@laurentian.ca

LOL--LOOK WHAT I RENTED FOR THE WEEKEND!!! :-P

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Siertsema: 'Dogsledding is unique'

BY WILLIE POLL

There are not a lot of people who are brave enough to take a team of dogs and race through the Alaskan wilderness at below zero temperatures, -70 degree wind chills, and white out conditions. This is the sport of dogsledding.

The Iditarod is the longest dogsled race in the world, running over 1000 miles through the frigid landscape of Alaska. There are dogsledders around the world, but few are brave enough to take on a long distance trek like this one. On March 13 Nome welcomed the first finisher of the 2012 Iditarod, Dallas Seavey. Seavey not only was brave enough to take on this ferocious race, but he also made history. This year, at 25 years old, Seavey set the record for the youngest person to ever win the Iditarod.

Dogsledding began as a mode of transportation through the northern regions of the world but now has turned into one of the most competitive, and satisfying sports out there. The sport has shown a decline in recent years due to young people not getting involved or being educated on the sport. Most Laurentian students probably aren't even aware that dogsledding races occur in Ontario. Although the Iditarod is the pinnacle of dogsledding, there are many great races here in Ontario that people travel worldwide to compete in. Luke Siertsema is a 21-year-old racer from Blyth, Ontario. He does mainly sprint races and has become one of Ontario's top young competitors with over 20 dogs. This year, Siertsema competed in four races, two in Ontario, and two in the United States, however his racing career consists of over 20 races.

"Some of Ontario's biggest competitors come from near and far," Siertsema said. "These include mushers from Quebec, Wisconsin, Michigan, New York, Alaska, Jamaica, and various European countries."

The sport is often overlooked and little information is brought to young people on how to get involved or even go to watch one of the races. Dogsledding is a highly competitive sport, and although new racers are always encouraged, it is a lot of work year-round.

"There are a lot of challenges in the sport of dogsledding," Siertsema said. "Some of the biggest ones are time and money. Dogsledding will take up hours of every day, 365 days a year. This includes feeding, cleaning out kennels, training, etc. And unless you are dogsledding as a full-time job and have a lot of sponsors, it's hard to make money on it. This sport is a hobby. A lot of money is spent on dog food, training equipment, living quarters, and trail maintenance. Another challenge is the dogs themselves. Each dog has a completely different personality and amount of talent for the sport. The dogs all need to be taken care of and trained accordingly."

The winter sport is often overlooked due to the fact that you can only sled on snow. However, just like any other sport, training occurs year-round. Generally mushers use an ATV to train dogs during the fall months, but have many training restrictions in the summer due to heat.

"We begin training when the weather begins to cool down in the fall, usually September, using an ATV with the motor running to help them along," Siertsema said. "The sled racing season itself is approximately from the end of December until mid March."

Races are beginning to decline in Ontario due to lack of interest and knowledge about their presence. Dogsledding is a difficult art to master, and like any professional athlete, this sport takes a lot of training, accept not only do you have to train yourself, but you also have dogs to train and look after.

"To someone looking into getting huskies of their own and racing them, I would definitely recommend some first-hand experience first," Siertsema said. "Go to some races. See what it's about. Ask mushers what the sport is like. And if you are dead-set on getting into dogsledding, get an experienced musher to help you along the way."

If you have not been dogsledding before, or even watched a race, it might be worth it to give it a try.

"This sport is so unique from anything else for a number of



Photo supplied

Luke Siertsema has competed in many dogsled races throughout his career.

reasons," Siertsema said. "For one, it is a very primal sport that emerged from the necessary travel of people in snowbound lands. As machines took over, mushers kept this way of life alive by making it a sport. And it is so completely different from everything else because it is simply a musher and his or her dogs flying down a trail with nothing but muscle. No machinery or engines.

Siertsema said there's a special bond that forms with the dogs.

"You can really feel good about it because you have raised and

trained these dogs yourself, and there is definitely an awesome feeling about that," Siertsema said.

He emphasized the importance of the types of dogs as well.

"In modern dogsledding, there are many types," Siertsema said. "Siberian Huskies are beautiful animals and draw a lot of attention because of their thick fur and multi-coloured eyes. These purebreds have pedigrees and are races by people that love where their bloodlines come from. My dogs consist of Alaskan Huskies, mixed with dogs such as African

Hounds, Polish Greyhounds, Euro hounds, and Pointers. They are extremely fast and powerful, and have won me a good number of races."

Dogsledding is a part of Canadian culture, and much of the routes of dogsledding trace back to our native ancestors who came here from the North. Canada is letting the sport die, and with that, we lose pieces of our culture, said Siertsema.

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The NHL missed Crosby, and so did Ovechkin

BY ANDY VEILLEUX

The (second) return of Sidney Crosby in the 2011-2012 NHL season was one of hype as opposed to substance.

Granted, Crosby is probably still the best player in the world when healthy, because he's better than Pavel Datsyuk due to his offensive upside.

Crosby did not appear to play like his old self in his first game back.

The score-line tells you differently, of course.

Crosby put up two assists and was a +3 in his return against the top team in the East, the New York Rangers, but score-sheets are known to be deceiving at times.

While he played well, something felt off about his game.

He rarely used his strong legs to push opponents aside while he held onto the puck. He didn't

travel into high-traffic areas with the puck.

His speed looked good at times, and he was a bit slow sometimes as well.

His shot was not as lethal as we have come to expect.

Of course, it was only his first game back, and it would be unrealistic to base judgement off of just one game.

The milder Crosby looked cautious, but maybe a little too cautious.

Of course, he wrecked himself in only eight games following his last return, which is something he undoubtedly wants to avoid with his second comeback of the season.

Fans can only hope the tamed Crosby gives way to the dominant centre from Cole Harbour, Nova Scotia that fans (most fans, anyways) love to watch, game in

and game out.

If Crosby reverts back to his old self, the injury questions will still follow him around for some time.

Is he going to get hurt again?

Is a team in the playoffs going to have a goon target his head to take him out?

Is he the second coming of Eric Lindros?

While these are all valid questions, which will be proven as this season, and future seasons, conclude, hockey fans can not deny that a return of the-old-Crosby would be a joy to watch.

Alex Ovechkin blows this season – by the ridiculously-high standards we set for him, and surely he sets for himself – and there would be nothing like a return of his arch-nemesis to light a fire under him again.

The league is best when the best players in the world are at the

top of their game.

Sure, it has been fun to watch Erik Karlsson, Joffrey Lupul, Steven Stamkos, Evgeni Malkin, and other stars dominate this year, but the league feels different without Crosby, and with a tamed Ovechkin.

It will be fascinating to watch whether or not The Kid gets his game primed for playoffs – which let's be honest, would make Pittsburgh the favourite of the

East – and whether it motivates The Great Eight to get back to his owning ways.

I predict Crosby finds his form again, and Ovechkin rekindles his fire.

Nobody wants to face Pittsburgh with a rested Crosby in the playoffs, and certainly, no one wants to face Washington if Ovechkin is rolling, even as a bottom seed.

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Intramural program offers first-ever Facebook page

BY LAURA THIRKILL

Take a look around our Campus. In the Great Hall, in Residence, in the Library, on the Ben Avery couches, in the halls. What is something that you notice is everywhere? Facebook.

This past year Voyageur Athletics and Campus Recreation Intramural Program jumped aboard the Facebook wave and introduced the first ever Laurentian University Intramural Sports page.

The page is simple to view and easy to control for administrators. It gives participants another

place to ask questions, and gives convenors and administrators a popular place to promote the program and their individual sports. Pictures are uploaded quickly after events so that participants can see and save the pictures, and reminders can become a new “status” to remind participants of upcoming events.

The pictures are the most popular part of the page. Teams get to see pictures uploaded quickly after the event, and seem to love tagging their friends. The administrator of the page gets notifications when pictures are

liked, commented on, or made profile pictures and this happens frequently. It is estimated that fans have a total of 74,382 friends who can all see these shots.

If you haven't already, check out our new page by searching “Laurentian University Intramural Sports” on Facebook and be sure to click “like” to receive more info about our great Intramural Events.

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Simon Fraser University research team finds potential treatment for Alzheimer's

BURNABY, B.C. (CUP) — A research team at Simon Fraser University has created a treatment that may slow down or even prevent Alzheimer's disease.

David Vocadlo, a chemistry professor at SFU and Canada Research Chair in chemical glycobiology, led a team of seven researchers on the project. Vocadlo specializes in the structures and roles of carbohydrates in biology, bringing him to this project and breakthrough. The team's paper, "Increasing O-GlcNAc slows neurodegeneration and stabilizes tau against aggregation," has been published in the latest edition of *Nature Chemical Biology*.

It's known from previous research that the impaired use of

glucose in the brain is an early feature of Alzheimer's. This decreased ability to use sugars in the brain potentially leads to clumping of a protein called "tau." According to Vocadlo, it is this clumping of tau that causes the death of neurons in the brain, the process that leads to these impairments. This degeneration causes many different brain diseases and deficiencies such as motor control impairment, dementia and Alzheimer's.

The SFU team has been working since 2008 with the basic idea that they could chemically boost sugar levels in the brain to lessen or eradicate the development of these problems. Two researchers in the study,

Scott Yuzwa and Xioyang Shan — both of whom were graduate students at the time of the study — discovered that an inhibitor that the team created slows down this removal of sugars from the tau protein. This compound inhibited O-GlcNAcase and increased tau O-GlcNAc, slowing down the formation of these clumps and the resulting neuron death.

The research team completed an eight-month trial, in which several mice were fed the inhibitor while the rest of the mice were not. After the trial period it was found that the mice who had been treated showed significant improvement in the health of their brains; an average of 50 per cent improvement. The mice

that were treated had 40 per cent more neurons in their spinal cord, better motor control, and had lost less weight and muscle than their untreated counterparts. Basically, the results showed that the degeneration of their brains had been greatly slowed down.

"I think this could lead to therapeutics that slow down the progression of Alzheimer's," said Vocadlo of the results. The SFU team is interested in following up on their previous study to find a stronger treatment that might eradicate the disease entirely in mice.

For now, the goal is to work to improve these results, which may require more knowledge on the specific processes at play. Vocadlo

is quick to point out that while this breakthrough has been made, it's still unknown what causes the decreased ability to produce glucose in the brain. "We need to know at a more specific level what's going on ... We need to understand the process with the sugars better," he said.

"The key is to be digging in a new area, to be exploring new things. What's cool isn't what we know, but what we don't. There's so much more that remains."

Dwarfing the Madagascan Dwarf Chameleon

WINNIPEG (CUP) — As we move deeper into the 21st century, we look further and further away from home for the scientific discoveries that shape headlines and shake our collective understanding of biology. From investigating water on the Moon, to hypothesizing about methane-based, hydrogen breathing life forms thriving in the liquid methane oceans of Saturn's moon, Titan, to scrutinizing the 2,326 (and counting) exoplanetary candidates catalogued by the Kepler Mission for other Earth-like planets, astrobiologists have diligently carried on the cosmic search for new forms of life.

With all the glamour that goes with the hunt for extraterrestrial life, we sometimes forget there's unknown life right here at home, just waiting to be discovered.

On Feb. 14, a paper describing four new species of leaf-chameleon native to Northern Madagascar was published in *PLoS ONE* — an open-access online scientific journal from the Public Library of Science — by a team of German scientists. The species described are part of a clade of diminutive ground chameleons catalogued under the group *Brookesia minima* — more commonly known as the Madagascan Dwarf Chameleon — and have been given the names *Brookesia micra*, *B. confidens*, *B. tristis* and *B. desperata*.

The discovery of a new species is hardly shocking news to modern biologists —

recent estimates suggest that 86 per cent of all land species and 91 per cent of all marine species yet await discovery and description, culminating in approximately another 1,200 years worth of job stability for taxonomists. These new chameleons have attracted international attention for their size and habitat. The appropriately named *Brookesia micra* — a derivation of the Greek word "mikros," meaning "small" — has become particularly popular.

With males reaching a maximum snout-vent (from the tip of the nose to the base of the tail) length less than 20 millimetres, *B. micra* is, to date, the smallest known species of chameleon, and one of the smallest reptiles in the world. An image of a juvenile standing quite comfortably on a match-head has recently taken the internet world by storm.

Occurring in only two locations on the island of Nosy Hara, just off the northern coast of Madagascar, "mikros" is equally apt as a descriptor of the chameleon's range.

"The island of Nosy Hara where *B. micra* occurs has a surface mainly made up by rocky, unforested terrain unsuitable for the chameleons, which are confined to a few canyons where trees are growing, and this is clearly below 50 hectares — much, much less than one square kilometre," co-author Miguel Vences, a professor for zoology and evolutionary biology at the Technical University of Braunschweig, told

The Manitoban.

A member of the team conducting the initial research on *B. micra*, Vences noted that although the distribution range of all animal groups has a tendency to reflect their physical size: "the extreme microendemism found in these and some other species, especially in northern Madagascar, seems to be exceptional."

According to genetic research, *B. micra* may have occupied this remarkably small habitat for more than 10 million years.

Despite the public's focus on *B. micra*, the other described species are not very much larger, having snout-to-vent lengths of 23, 29, and 30 mm for *B. confidens*, *B. tristis* and *B. desperata*, respectively. The researchers believe this miniaturization to be the result of "Island Dwarfism," an evolutionary phenomenon attributed to the limited resources available on an island — in *B. micra*'s case, possibly the dwarfing of a dwarf, when an already miniaturized species moved from one island to another, much smaller one.

The discovery of the smallest chameleon in the world rides on the heels of a paper published a month earlier in the same journal, describing the smallest frog — and possibly, at seven millimetres long, vertebrate — in the world, found in Papua New Guinea by an American research team.

Asked about the possibility of discovering future miniaturizations of species, Dr.

Vences wrote: "Yes, small animals are likely to be overlooked, so it might well be that other tiny species of amphibians, reptiles or fish are still awaiting discovery."

Although *B. micra*'s name was given to reflect its diminutive size, the other three chameleon species were named to reflect their respective ecological situations and denote concern on behalf of the researchers for their habitats, "confidens" meaning "confident" in Latin, "tristis" meaning "sad," and "desperatus" meaning "desperate."

Brookesia confidens is lucky enough to find its range within a well-preserved and difficult-to-access nature reserve, offering a degree of protection to the species. *B. desperata*, on the other hand, has seen its habitat develop a number of human-influenced environmental issues, while the entire known range of *B. tristis* has been subject to deforestation and ecological damage.

"The habitat of *tristis* and *desperata* is being slashed and burned for firewood and local agriculture," said Dr. Vences. "Since these animals depend on the leaf litter and the shade of big trees, they are in imminent danger."

Letter to the editor: Letting down the walls

Letting down walls.

It's important to share your story. There can be a lot learned from doing so. But there are ways of doing so without offending the other person. Ways that will be more effective.

There's a very fine line between breaking down and letting down walls. Bribing someone with money to get him or her to tell you what they know is not a very good way of getting the info you want out of the person. It's intimidating and it makes the other person feel inferior and defeated.

A better way is to shut up and listen to what the other person has to say. You have to be open to the idea of receiving a story. Which means you must let down your walls first. If you prove (by letting down your walls) that you are not a threat and that you are there to listen or even help, the other person will gain trust and share their story with you.

Once you have let down those walls, so much can open up to you. Not only can you make great friends, you can learn valuable life lessons. Each person will take something different from each lesson.

This is why I'm going to tell you my story. So that maybe some day, you will take what I am about to tell you, and use it to your advantage.

Three years ago, on New Years Eve, I was at a boy's house waiting with him for his parents to come home. He no longer only wanted to watch TV, so he took me up to his room. He had had enough waiting for me, so he took what he wasn't getting – he raped me.

I was so ashamed. I didn't know what to do, whom to go to, where to go. What would I do when I went home to my parents? Nothing. That's what I did – nothing. It was my worst mistake. For two and a half years I remained silent and let him get away.

Finally, in August, I told my counselor. I was so ashamed that it took me that long to tell anyone. I was encouraged to tell my parents afterwards. It was probably one of the hardest things I have ever done. I was so scared. How would they react, would they be mad at me? No, they love me, and when I told them, they understood.

Over the October reading break, I went to the police station to do something about it. I didn't want to press charges, just file a complaint so that it could be used as extra evidence to someone else's complaint. However, I got a rude awakening. The officer there told me that if I continued to tell them my story, I would have to press charges. So I left.

I hated myself for that. I had gone

so far only to stop when I was so close. But how could I have gone through with it? I would have to see him again, taking time off school. I don't think I would have been able to handle that. Besides, I wanted to help others, not punish him.

I realize that I couldn't reach people by pressing charges, but maybe by writing I could. So I am writing now. This is my story and how I got through it all.

I'm not going to lie, it was hard; but I

made it and I am holding my head up high. I'm hoping that by sharing my story more people will come out with theirs and realize that they're not alone. We have family and friends. We don't have to go through this alone. I did for the first two and a half years, and it was brutal. It was probably the worse two and a half years of my life. I had to see him every day of my life for that time, and I was too afraid to tell anyone in fear that he would hurt me again.

But I will not stand alone any longer. I want my voice back, so I am taking it back. My family and friends are at my side helping me through this.

I don't regret what happened to me. Yes, it sucks, but (as cheesy as it sounds) it made me who I am today. I have never been happier to be on this path to my career.

So take what I have to offer and learn from it.

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vote

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